

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

Claim 1. A rim base for a rim of a wheel, the rim base being adapted to be positioned upon an outer annular channel, the outer annular channel being adapted to have a tire mounted thereon, the channel having an upper bridge with a central well bordered by opposite lateral edges and a pair of opposite lateral flanges substantially parallel to a radial plane of the rim, with the lateral flanges having laterally opposed lips on upper ends of the flanges, said rim base comprising:

a continuous annular strip;

in cross section, the annular strip of the rim base comprising:

a generally U-shaped groove having a shape to adapt the rim base to be engaged in the central well of the rim;

two lateral extensions extending laterally from said central groove adapted to lie upon the opposite lateral edges of the rim;

two walls extending generally radially from said lateral extension, said two walls adapted to be positioned along the lateral flanges of the rim;

two lips extending inwardly from respective ones of said two walls, said two lips of the rim base adapted to be positioned radially inward/beneath the laterally opposed lips of the upper ends of the flanges of the rim.

Claim 2. A rim base according to claim 1, wherein:

said lips of the rim base have uppermost ends positioned at a height, with respect to a cross section of the rim base, to adapt the lips of the rim base to be positioned no higher than uppermost ends of the lips of the flanges of the rim.

Claim 3. A rim base according to claim 1, wherein:

each of said lips of the rim base has an exterior support surface oriented substantially perpendicular to a general direction of said walls of the rim base.

Claim 4. A rim base according to claim 1, wherein:  
each of said lips of the rim base has a cross section that narrows in a direction extending toward a median plane of the rim base.

Claim 5. A rim base according to claim 1, wherein:  
each of said lips of the rim base projects approximately 0.85 millimeters from a respective inner surface of one of said walls of the rim base.

Claim 6. A rim base according to claim 1, wherein:  
said U-shaped groove is formed by lateral walls having projecting grooves or ridges adapted to connect mechanically with ridges or grooves, respectively, of the central well of the rim.

Claim 7. A rim base according to claim 1, wherein:  
said groove of the rim base has a projecting rib.

Claim 8. A rim base according to claim 7, wherein:  
said projecting rib has a shape, in cross section, tapering in a direction extending exteriorly of the rim base.

Claim 9. A rim base according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a valve hole bordered with a flange, said flange projecting in a direction interiorly of the rim base.

Claim 10. A tool for positioning the rim base according to claim 1, said tool comprising:

a centering extension provided to be engaged in the median groove of the rim base;

two lateral extensions provided to press the walls and the lips of the rim base against the walls of the rim.

Claim 11. A rim for a wheel, said rim comprising:

an outer annular channel, said outer annular channel comprising:

a pair of lateral flanges, said lateral flanges comprising a pair of laterally opposed lips, a respective one of said pair of lips on each of radially outer ends of said flanges;

a bridge extending between said pair of lateral flanges, said bridge comprising a pair of lateral edges extending inwardly from said lateral flanges toward a median plane of the rim and a well extending radial inwardly from said lateral edges;

a rim base, separate from said outer annular channel, positioned within said outer annular channel, said rim base comprising:

a depression positioned over said well of said bridge of said annular channel, said depression containing a radial groove adapted to receive a pair of beads of a tire;

a pair of lateral extensions extending laterally outwardly from said depression of said rim base, said lateral extensions positioned over said lateral edges of said bridge;

a pair of walls extending radially from said lateral extensions, said pair of walls being positioned along said lateral flanges of said annular channel;

a pair of lips extending inward from respective ones of said two walls, said pair of lips of said rim base being positioned radially inward of, and not radially outward beyond, said pair of lips of said lateral flanges of said annular channel.

Claim 12. A rim according to claim 11, wherein:

said lips of said rim base have radially outermost ends positioned no further radially than outermost ends of said lips of said flanges of said annular channel.

Claim 13. A rim according to claim 11, wherein:

each of said lips of said rim base has an exterior support surface oriented substantially perpendicular to a general direction of said walls of said rim base.

Claim 14. A rim according to claim 11, wherein:

each of said lips of said rim base has a cross section that narrows in a direction extending toward a median plane of said rim base.

Claim 15. A rim according to claim 11, wherein:

each of said lips of said rim base projects approximately 0.85 millimeters from a respective inner surface of one of said walls of said rim base.

Claim 16. A rim according to claim 11, wherein:

said well of said annular channel includes a pair of lateral walls having projecting ridges or grooves;

said depression of said rim base includes a pair of lateral walls having projecting grooves or ridges provided for a mechanical connection with said ridges or grooves, respectively, of said annular channel.

Claim 17. A rim according to claim 11, wherein:

said depression of said rim base has a projecting rib extending radially from said groove.

Claim 18. A rim according to claim 17, wherein:

said projecting rib has a shape, in cross section, tapering in a direction extending radially outwardly from said rim base.

Claim 19. A rim according to claim 11, further comprising:

a valve hole bordered with a flange, said flange projecting in a direction radially inward of said rim base.

Claim 20. A wheel comprising said rim of claim 11.

Claim 21. A wheel according to claim 20, further comprising:  
a plurality of spokes mounted in openings within said rim.